

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 /090 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBSSY BON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1126

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA STUDIES: NATO BLUE BOOK

REF: (A) USANTO A-51 (DATED 2 FEB 1977), (B) STATE
42129 (DTG 250119Z FEB 77), (C) AC 276-WP(77)2
(DATED 22 FEB 1977), (D) 76 STATE 256482 (DTG
152338Z OCT 76), (E) AC/276-N(77)2 (DATED
25 FEB 1977), (F) USNATO 137 (DTG 121645Z JAN 77)

1. MBFR WORKING GROUP (SGDS) HAS APPROVED AND ISSUED
NOTE OUTLINING FUTURE TREATMENT OF NATO BLUE BOOK AS
AC/276-D(77)3 (REFS A AND B). WE WILL POUCH FINAL NOTE
TO WASHINGTON, BUT IT IS IDENTICAL TO REF A.

2. WG SUB-GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT (SGDS) MET ON FEBRUARY 4,
1977 TO DISCUSS FUTURE FORMAT FOR BLUE BOOK;WE WERE
NOT INFORMED (DUE TO A DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM IN THE SITCEN),
SO US REP DID NOT ATTEND THAT MEETING. SGDS CHAIRMAN ISSUED
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REPORT TO WG (REF C: POUCHED TO WASHINGTON AS NATO CONFIDEN-
TIAL ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977) WITH FINAL "SGDS-APPROVED" FORMAT
FOR BLUE BOOK DATA. WE POINTED OUT TO WG CHAIRMAN THAT
WE HAD NOT APPROVED THE FORMAT, AND COULD NOT DO SO
SINCE IT SEEMED TO US THAT IT FOLLOWED THE ORIGINAL
BLUE BOOK FORMAT CLOSELY AND WAS THEREFORE TOO DETAILED
(REF D). WE ALSO MENTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE
FOR THE WG TO APPROVE THE BLUE BOOK FORMAT IN FINAL
UNTIL WE KNOW THE ROUGH OUTLINE OF WHAT WP DATA WILL BE
INCLUDED IN THE NATO FORCE DATA PLANNING BASE (NFDPB);

THE BLUE BOOK FORMAT SHOULD BE AS COMPATIBLE AS POSSIBLE
WITH THE NFDPB PROGRAM.

3. WG CHAIRMAN SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A NOTE (REF E, POUCHED
TO WASHINGTON AS NATO CONFIDENTIAL ON FEBRUARY 28, 1977)
SUGGESTING THAT THE "DRAFT SGDS REPORT... WILL BE
DISCUSSED AT A FULL SESSION OF THE SGDS IN THE NEAR
FUTURE", AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE SGDS EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY
OF DIFFERENT FORMATS FOR WP DATA, WITH FEWER SERIALS
FOR DATA ON FORCES IN THE USSR AS COMPARED TO FORCES IN THE
NGA. HE ALSO TASKED THE SGDS TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL,
AGREED BLUE BOOK FORMAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE
NFDPB.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST GUIDANCE ON DATA FORMAT
FOR THE NATO BLUE BOOK FOR USE IN THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE SGDS, PER PARA 4, REF F. WE BELIEVE THAT JUST AS
SGDS CONSIDERATION OF A DATA FORMAT SHOULD NOT BE IN
ADVANCE OF THE NFPB PROGRAMMING, NEITHER SHOULD IT LAG
TOO FAR BEHIND. WASHINGTON IS NOW IN BETTER POSITION
TO JUDGE THE PROGRESS IN THE NFDPB PROGRAMMING; WE
WOULD THEREFORE ALSO APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHEN THE SGDS
MIGHT RESUME ITS WORK. (FYI: WG CHAIRMAN HAS AGREED
TO DEFER NEXT SGDS MEETING FOR A FEW WEEKS, PENDING
OUR GUIDANCE).
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